GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:439
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
ARREST OF PAK HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIAL
ASHOK KUMAR PATEL;PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pakistan High Commission official was arrested on May 31, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken against him;

(d) whether Pakistan in retaliation kidnapped an Indian High Commission official and thrashed him badly;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government had taken up the matter with Pakistan; and

(g) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (c) An official of the Pakistan High Commission was apprehended on May 31, 2002 while receiving classified information / documents from an Indian national. He was handed over to Pakistan High Commission as required under the recognised norms of international law. He was subsequently declared persona-non-grata and asked to leave India.

(d) & (e) In retaliation, operatives of Pakistani intelligence agency forcibly kidnapped a staff member of Indian High Commissionin Islamabad on June 1, 2002 and detained him illegally for over six hours. He was tied and beaten and kicked during the detention. He was later declared persona-non-grata and asked to leave Pakistan on totally false & baseless allegations.

(f) Government lodged a strong protest with Pakistan Government at the blatant, inhuman violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961 and bilateral Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic / Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan, 1992 and reminded Pakistan of its obligations towards the safety and security of Indian personnel.

(g) As it routinely does, Government of Pakistan rejected Indian protest as baseless.